



## COUNCILMEMBER DONNA FRYE

City of San Diego  
Sixth District

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 7, 2005

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

**FROM:** Councilmember Donna Frye

**SUBJECT:** Non-Agenda Public Comment

On Tuesday, February 8, the City Council will be discussing and voting on Item S501: *"Amending the San Diego Municipal Code Relating to the Time for Hearing the Non-Agenda Public Comment."* One of the arguments raised in support of moving the Non-Agenda Public Comment from the beginning of the Tuesday City Council meeting to the end of the meeting is the desire to reduce the amount of time members of the public are required wait to be heard on docketed items. I agree that this issue needs to be resolved in order to better serve the public and be more respectful of their time.

The following recommendations will reduce the wait time for members of the public wishing to speak on docketed items, while at the same time accommodating the Non-Agenda Public Comment at the beginning of the Tuesday meeting. These recommendations will also reduce the amount of time City staff must spend waiting in the audience on an item, which will save the City of San Diego taxpayers money.

Following are my recommendations:

1. Start the meetings on time.
2. Move City Council Comment to the end of the Tuesday meeting.
3. Reduce the Tuesday lunch recess from two hours to one hour. This will allow the Tuesday afternoon meeting to begin earlier, so members of the public, who may be attending the meeting for items appearing on both the Discussion agenda and the Consent agenda, will not have to wait so long.
4. Change the agenda to reflect that items listed on the Tuesday Discussion docket will not be heard until after the lunch recess (1 or 2 pm depending on whether recommendation 3 is adopted). This way, the members of the public and City staff will know that they do not have to be in attendance until 1 or 2 pm.

5. In addition, if the Mayor and City Council wish to further reduce the amount of time members of the public must wait before their docketed items are heard, I recommend moving the Special Orders of Business from Monday at 2 pm to Tuesday at 10 am. That way, the public will not have to spend time on Monday waiting for the Special Orders of Business to be completed before their docketed item is heard. By combining the Non-Agenda Public Comment and the Special Orders of Business on Tuesday morning at 10 am the Mayor and Council will be better serving the public interest - in both time and money.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

cc: P. Lamont Ewell, City Manager  
Michael Aguirre, City Attorney  
Charles G. Abdelnour, City Clerk

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